

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 630

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JUSTUS.

Read 1st time February 28, 2007, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

2468S.011

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 167, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to educational rights and stability for foster care students.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 167, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 167.018 and 167.019, to read as follows:

**167.018. 1. Sections 167.018 and 167.019, shall be known and may be cited as "The Foster Care Education Bill of Rights".**

**2. It is the intent of the general assembly to ensure that all pupils in foster care under sections 210.481 to 210.536, RSMo, have a meaningful opportunity to meet the academic achievement standards to which all pupils are held. In fulfilling their responsibilities to these pupils, educators, care providers, child placing agencies, advocates, and the juvenile officers shall work together to maintain stable school placements and to ensure that each pupil is placed in the least restrictive educational programs, and has access to the academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all pupils. In all instances, educational and school placement decisions must be based on the best interests of the child.**

**3. Each school district shall designate a staff person as the educational liaison for foster care children. The liaison shall do all of the following in an advisory capacity:**

**(1) Ensure and facilitate the proper educational placement, enrollment in school, and checkout from school of foster children;**

**(2) Assist foster children when transferring from one school to another or from one school district to another in ensuring proper transfer of credits, records, and grades;**

22           **(3) Request school records as provided in section 167.022, within**  
23 **two days of placement of a foster care pupil in a school; and**

24           **(4) Submit school records of a foster care pupil within three days**  
25 **of receiving a request for school records under subdivision (3) of this**  
26 **subsection.**

**167.019. 1. A child placing agency, as defined under section**  
2 **210.481, RSMo, shall promote educational stability for foster care**  
3 **children under sections 210.481 to 210.536, RSMo, by considering the**  
4 **child's school attendance area when making placement decisions. The**  
5 **foster care child shall have the right to remain enrolled in and attend**  
6 **his or her school of origin pending resolution of school placement**  
7 **disputes.**

8           **2. Each school district shall accept for credit full or partial**  
9 **course work satisfactorily completed by a pupil while attending a**  
10 **public school, nonpublic, or nonsectarian school. The course work**  
11 **shall be transferred by means of the standard state transcript. If a**  
12 **pupil completes the graduation requirements of his or her school**  
13 **district of residence while being detained, the school district of**  
14 **residence shall issue to the pupil a diploma from the school the pupil**  
15 **last attended before detention or in the alternative, the superintendent**  
16 **of the school district may issue the diploma.**

17           **3. The school districts shall ensure that if a pupil in foster care**  
18 **is absent from school due to a decision to change the placement of a**  
19 **pupil made by a court or child placing agency, or due to a verified**  
20 **court appearance or related court-ordered activity, the grades and**  
21 **credits of the pupil shall be calculated as of the date the pupil left**  
22 **school, and no lowering of his or her grades shall occur as a result of**  
23 **the absence of the pupil under these circumstances.**

24           **4. A school district shall be authorized to permit access of pupil**  
25 **school records to any child placing agency for the purpose of fulfilling**  
26 **educational case management responsibilities required by the juvenile**  
27 **officer or by law and to assist with the school transfer or placement of**  
28 **a pupil.**

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